

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A screw comprising:  
a shank having a tip at one end and a head at the other end, said head having a lower surface;  
a thread on said shank;  
a knurled portion on said shank disposed between said thread and said head, said knurled portion comprising peaks and intersecting troughs;  
at least one flute in said knurled portion; and  
at least one rib on said lower surface of said head.
2. (Original) The screw of claim 1, further comprising a second rib on said lower surface of said head, said second rib being different from said at least one rib.
3. (Original) The claim of claim 1 wherein said at least one flute comprises two flutes.
4. (Original) The screw of claim 1 wherein said at least one flute extends onto a portion of a neck of said screw.
5. (Original) The screw according to claim 1, wherein said tip is a self-drilling tip.
6. (Original) The screw according to claim 1, further comprising a transition section between said thread and said knurled portion.

7. (Previously Presented) A screw comprising:  
a shank having a tip at one end and a head at the other end;  
a thread on said shank;  
a knurled portion on said shank disposed between said thread and said head,  
wherein said knurled portion comprises peaks and intersecting troughs; and  
at least one flute in said knurled portion.
8. (Original) The screw of claim 7 wherein said head has a lower surface and at least one rib on said lower surface.
9. (Original) The screw according to claim 7 wherein said head has an upper surface and said upper surface is a rough surface.
10. (Original) The screw according to claim 7 wherein said head has a lower surface and a circumferential lip on said lower surface.
11. (Original) The screw according to claim 7 further comprising a transition section between said thread and said knurled portion.
12. – 17. (Cancelled).
18. (Previously Presented) A screw comprising:  
a shank having a tip at one end and a head at the other end, said head having a lower surface;  
a thread on said shank;

a knurled portion comprising peaks and intersecting troughs on said shank,  
disposed between said thread and said head, and at least one flute in said knurled portion  
and extending onto at least a portion of said thread; and  
at least a first rib on said lower surface of said head.

19. (Original) The screw according to claim 18, further comprising a second rib on  
said lower surface of said head, said second rib being different from said first rib.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Original) The screw according to claim 18 further comprising a circumferential  
lip on said lower surface of said head.

22. (Original) The screw according to claim 18, wherein said second rib is disposed  
on said lower surface of said head and extends onto a neck of said head.

23. (Original) The screw according to claim 18 further comprising a transition  
section between said thread and said knurled portion.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of using a screw comprising:  
providing a screw shank having a tip, a thread, a knurled portion comprising peaks  
and intersecting troughs with at least one flute, and a head;  
providing a particle producing material and a base material;  
inserting said screw, by rotation, into said particle producing material, producing  
particles by rotation of said knurled portion in said particle producing material;

transporting at least some of said produced particles from said particle producing material via said at least one flute; and

securing said particle producing material to said base material.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of using a screw comprising:

providing a screw shank having a tip, a thread, a knurled portion comprising peaks and intersecting troughs with at least one flute and a head;

providing a bulge producing material and a base material;  
inserting said screw, by rotation, into said bulge producing material,  
producing a bulge on a surface of said bulge producing material by rotation of said thread into said bulge producing material;

displacing said bulge into said bulge producing material via said knurled portion;  
and

securing said bulge producing material to said base material.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).